



Dr. Peter Davies pointing out the small concrete blocks which enable fish to swim upstream

Friends Of The Sandy Bay Rivulet Group

THE Friends recently held a very successful field trip with Dr. Peter Davies. Peter is a Research Fellow at the School of Zoology at the University of Tasmania and Director of Freshwater Systems Aquatic Consultancy. His research work has included sampling for freshwater fauna in the Sandy Bay Rivulet from 1989.

The afternoon began at the entrance of the rivulet near Short Beach where Peter gave an outline of the rivulet aquatic life along the lower Quayle St. stretch of the stream where a variety of native and exotic fish can be found, pointing out the importance of the rushes to the breeding cycle of the jollytail, a native galaxia and the importance of the pool as a sanctuary for fish when the stream flow is low.

The Friends of the Sandy Bay Rivulet Group have recently made representation to the Council on the issue of the rushes and a trial planting will be implemented shortly. The Council is in the process of drilling holes in the base of the rivulet in preparation for the planting.

Moving on to Regent St. with the help of some specialized equipment we were able to see the variety of fish at the location. We also saw the new fish ladder blocks, which



Thomas Little, 5 years, looking at an eel and a sandy (native fish)

are small concrete blocks that are being positioned on the concrete invert of culvert section to help the galaxias to migrate up the rivulet.

Finally we inspected the rivulet near Lynton Ave. and again shown the range of fish and fish food available. We were particularly surprised at the size of the eels. A wonderful time was had by all who attended including the children.

Following the interesting talk by Maggie Cashman-Bailes from Birds of Australia, a follow-up field trip is planned for September with Don Knowler (date to be confirmed) where birds and bird habitat of the Rivulet will be discussed on site.

At a recent HCC meeting the

Council unanimously agreed that a report be prepared on the desirability of a linear park on and around the Sandy Bay Rivulet to enhance and protect its existing natural values and aesthetics. The motion was moved by Eva Ruzicka and seconded by Lyn Archer.

For more information contact Jim Bowler (convener) Ph. 6225 5124.